

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 /083 W

----- 074287

R 271005Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2780

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY

SUBJ: FURTHER INFORMATION ON SYRIAN STATEMENT REGARDING  
DE BORCHGRAVE - ASAD INTERVIEW

REF: DAMASCUS 711

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
TOLD EMBOFF FEB 27 THAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAS SENT TEXT  
OF DE BORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW AS IT APPEARED IN BEIRUT  
DAILY AL-NAHAR TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR ITS COMMENTS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS. FIFTEEN MAN COMMITTEE OF SENIOR  
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD DEBATED PROS AND CONS  
AND CONCLUDED THAT CLARIFICATION NEEDED TO BE ISSUED.  
DRAFT CLARIFICATION FORWARDED TO PRESIDENCY, SOURCE  
SAID, WAS STRONGER RETRACTION OF SYRIAN WILLINGNESS  
TO SIGN EVENTUAL PEACE TREATY THAN STATEMENT WHICH  
PRESIDENCY ACTUALLY ISSUED (REFTEL.

2. SOURCE SAID US COULD BE SURE THAT ASAD'S  
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ORIGINAL STATEMENT TO DE BORCHGRAVE REPRESENTED

SYRIA'S TRUE POSITION AND AT PROPER STAGE IN  
NEGOTIATIONS THIS WOULD BE MADE CLEAR. PRINCIPAL  
REASON FOR BACKTRACKING AT THIS POINT, HE SAID, WAS  
NECESSITY TO PRESERVE STRENGTH OF ASAD BLOC IN  
BAATH PARTY'S REGIONAL COMMAND ELECTIONS, FIRST  
STAGE OF WHICH WOULD BE TAKING PLACE MARCH 3.  
BAATHIS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMITTEE, HE SAID, HAD  
ALL INSISTED ON SOME SORT OF TACTICAL RETRACTION  
OF THE DE BORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC00724  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750069-0454  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975028/aaaaagqf.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 DAMASCUS 711  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER INFORMATION ON SYRIAN STATEMENT REGARDING DE BORCHGRAVE - ASAD INTERVIEW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, SY, (DE BORCHGRAVE, ARNAUD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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